

From: Peter Olend
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 2:16pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

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January 15, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

I was pleased to hear that the Department of Justice and many of the states decided to settle the Microsoft antitrust case. I would like the judge handling the case to approve the settlement.

In my opinion, this case should never have been brought against Microsoft. Through hard work and innovation, Microsoft has changed our world for the better. Microsoft has broken the inter-operability barrier and operational obfuscation that the likes of IBM, Sperry-Rand, Digital Equipment Corporation, Varian, ATT and others carefully nurtured prior to the 1980's. For this, Microsoft is being punished under the guise that they have engaged in anti-competitive behavior. Do you remember the way ATT handled the release of the original Kernigan and Ritchy UNIX into the public domain and the antics of the "UNIX Consortium"? That was anti-competitive behavior. Nothing breeds contempt like success. However, in the interest of wrapping up this suit, I support Microsoft's decision to be bound by the terms of the settlement agreement.

Microsoft has gone so far as agreeing to disclose to its competitors various interfaces internal to the Windows operating system. As a development systems engineer, I find nothing inhibiting about the public interfaces. They have also agreed not to take action against those who violate Microsoft's intellectual property rights. Similarly, they will not take action against computer manufacturers who ship computers containing the competition's software.

Settling this case is in the best interests of all involved. I urge the Court to approve this settlement agreement. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Peter Olend